

Three new species and novel distributional data for birds in Uruguay

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Uruguay lies in the south-eastern South America Pampas biome (*sensu* Stotz *et al.* 1996) and its avifauna contains elements of diverse zoogeographic origin. Aside of typical Pampas birds, the country harbours Chaco and Atlantic Forest species, as well as migrants from different parts of the Americas. Following pioneering studies in the 19th century, ornithological knowledge of Uruguay improved rapidly through the efforts of many workers, mostly since the 1950s. Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962) provided a comprehensive annotated list of the country's birds and the first precise distributional data for most species. Numerous contributions (frequently targeting specific groups or geographic regions) have updated or complemented the data therein but, surprisingly, no recent publication has provided detailed information (i.e. localities and dates) on the distribution of birds throughout Uruguay (though see Arballo & Cravino 1999 for a projected work).

Following a substantial increase in the number of professional and amateur ornithologists in the last 20 years, a significant number of new species have been added to the country's avifauna. Most were included in general lists of Uruguay's birds (Azpiroz 1997, Arballo & Cravino 1999, Azpiroz 2001, Claramunt & Cuello 2004), but specific data for only a few have been published. Here we update the status and distribution of 45 species, i.e. c.10% of the total avifauna, based on our own field work and by many others throughout Uruguay (Fig. 1). Species treated here occupy three main categories: a) those with no previously published records; b) species recently discovered in Uruguay with only very few records; and c) species with few or no recent observations (i.e. post-1980) in-country. Wherever possible, especially for difficult to identify species, we provide details of available evidence (e.g. specimens, recordings). Specimens, as well as copies of many other supporting materials mentioned in the text, have been deposited at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología (MNHN), Montevideo. In the accounts, our own observations are presented first, followed by those of others. The relevance of new records is discussed *vis à vis* previous data and against distribution and status in adjacent southernmost Brazil (i.e. Rio Grande do Sul) and eastern Argentina where relevant. Sequence follows that of Bencke (2001), whilst subspecies names are taken from Claramunt & Cuello (2004).

Species accounts

BROWN TINAMOU *Crypturellus obsoletus obsoletus*

On 25 February 1999, c.1 km south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo, three singles were seen (perhaps the same individual) in gallery forest. Next day one was heard in the same place (ABA). In 2006, *C. obsoletus* was seen and heard repeatedly in gallery forest along the río Yaguarón, between Paso Centurión and Paso Paiva, on 27–28 February (JLM), 18–19 June (ABA, JLM), 27 August (JLM), 15 and 17 October (JLM), 8 November (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006) and 8–10 December (ABA, JLM). It was not found at Paso de Melo, also on the Yaguarón, in January 2000 (ABA). *C. obsoletus* was first recorded in Uruguay in December 1997, at Picada de Felipe, also on the Yaguarón, dpto. Cerro Largo (Arballo & Cravino 1999), where relocated subsequently (Rocha 2003). Our records are c.10 km to the south-east. Brown Tinamou is



Figure 1. Localities mentioned in the text. *Artigas*: 1. Bella Unión; 2. Estancia San Pedro; 3. Diego Lamas. *Salto*: 4. Termas del Arapey; 5. Lavalleja; 6. Paso de las Piedras, río Arapey Grande; 7. Salto Grande dam; 8. Salto city; 9. San Antonio; 10. Boquerón de Cañas; 11. Cerros de Vera; 12. Arerunguá. *Paysandú*: 13. Chapicuy; 14. Termas de Guaviyú; 15. Establecimiento Santo Domingo; 16. Tres Árboles. *Río Negro*: 17. Paso de las Cadenas, arroyo Negro; 18. Establecimiento Los Cedros; 19. Estancia Mbopicuá. *Soriano*: 20. Arroyo Cololó; 21. Establecimiento Don Siba. *Flores*: 22. Cuchilla Marincho. *Colonia*: 23. Conchillas; 24. Punta Artilleros. *San José*: 25. Libertad; 26. Playa Pascual; 27. Playa Penino. *Montevideo*: 28. Montevideo city. *Canelones*: 29. Carrasco International Airport/Bañados de Carrasco; 30. Solymar; 31. Pando city; 32. Laguna del Cisne. *Florida*: 33. Estancia Pastorini. *Maldonado*: 34. Punta Colorada, 35. Punta Negra; 36. Sierra de Caracoles; 37. San Carlos; 38. Laguna del Diario; 39. Arroyo Maldonado marshes; 40. Cuchilla Maldonado; 41. Laguna José Ignacio; 42. Gruta de Salamanca. *Rocha*: 43. Laguna de Rocha; 44. Sierra de Chafalote; 45. Laguna de Castillos; 46. Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos; 47. Cabo Polonio; 48. Valizas; 49. Aguas Dulces; 50. Balneario La Esmeralda; 51. Laguna Negra; 52. Colonia Vacacional Don Bosco; 53. Potrerillo de Santa Teresa; 54. Fortaleza de Santa Teresa; 55. Bañado de los Indios; 56. Chuy; 57. San Miguel National Park; 58. Bañado Tres Bocas; 59. Estero de Pelotas; 60. Cebollatí; 61. Isla del Padre. *Treinta y Tres*: 62. Enrique Martínez; 63. Treinta y Tres city; 64. Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos. *Cerro Largo*: 65. Cerro Guazuambí; 66. Sierra de Ríos; 67. Paso Paiva; 68. Paso Centurión; 69. Paso de Melo. *Durazno*: 70. Cuchilla de los Manantiales; 71. La Paloma; 72. Picada de Oribe. *Tacuarembó*: 73. Rincón de Zamora; 74. Rincón de Vassoura. *Rivera*: 75. Masoller; 76. Valle del Lunarejo. Boxes A and B refer to the Arerunguá and Centurión areas (see text)

common in eastern Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994) and is known from the Brazilian side of the Yaguarón (Maurício & Dias 2001).

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea*

In dpto. Rocha, on 14–15 September 2002, single adults (probably the same) were seen in the vicinity of Valizas and Laguna de Castillos, respectively (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006), whilst on 13 September 2004 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006) and 9 July 2005 (G. Cortés *in litt.* 2006) an immature and adult, respectively, were near Valizas. Three pre-1920 records (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), with more recent observations from arroyo Valizas (September 1997) and Lascano (November 1994), dpto. Rocha, and isla Sauzal (March 1998) dpto. Soriano (Gambarotta *et al.* 1999, Arballo & Cravino 1999). Gore & Gepp (1978) suggested it might be a summer vagrant, but records are now also available for autumn/winter. Few observations in Rio Grande do Sul, most in autumn/winter (Belton 1994, Maurício & Dias 1996, 2000). In Argentina also rare with few records, mostly in the north (Mazar Barnett & Pearman 2001).

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

On 7 November 1996, nine were near the río Uruguay, at estancia San Pedro (Arrocera Conti), c.18 km north-west of Colonia Palma, dpto. Artigas (ABA). Local people stated that the species formerly bred on isla del Zapallo in the same river. On 25 February 1999, five flew over the río Yaguarón, c.1 km south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo, with two pairs in the same area next day (ABA). On 20 July 2000, one flew over Balneario La Esmeralda, dpto. Rocha (ABA). On 27 November 2006, one was over Rincón de Zamora, just north of Paso Ramírez, dpto. Tacuarembó (ABA). On 7 December 2006, a pair was observed over the Yaguarón at Paso Paiva (ABA, JLM). Frequently noted on the río Cebollatí, around Enrique Martínez, dpto. Treinta y Tres, in April–September 1984 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). On 4 December 1999, two females were seen on isla del Padre, on the río Cebollatí, dptos. Treinta y Tres / Rocha (C. Calimares *in litt.* 1999). Though more widespread formerly (Tremoleras 1920, Arballo & Cravino 1999), in the last 20 years it was reported only on the ríos Negro, Tacuarembó, Tacuarí and Uruguay (Arballo & Cravino 1999). Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962) and Gore & Gepp (1978) commented on the lack of records for southern Uruguay. Ours are the first for dpto. Rocha (the only recent record in southern Uruguay) and for the Yaguarón.

BICOLOURED HAWK *Accipiter bicolor pileatus*

Observed on 16 December 1995 and 25 February 1996, in gallery forest along arroyo Gajo del Lunarejo, c.10 km south-east of Masoller, dpto. Rivera (ABA); the only observations during a 14-month survey involving 4–5-day monthly visits, in February 1995–March 1996 (ABA), to the Valle del Lunarejo. On 10 June 2005, an adult was in arroyo Guaviyú, establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, dpto. Paysandú, with a juvenile *Accipiter*, probably also *A. bicolor* seen there on the same day (ABA). On 11 November 2005, an active nest, initially found on 5 November (A. Ocampo pers. comm. 2005), was observed in arroyo Itapebí Grande, just east of San Antonio, dpto. Salto (ABA). The nest was regularly visited in early December 2005 but the birds were not seen again (A. Ocampo & G. Cortés pers. comm. 2005). In November 2003 and 2004, a pair was seen at a nest c.8–10 m atop a tall tree along the río Uruguay, at estancia Mbopicuá, 10 km east of Fray Bentos, dpto. Río Negro (J. Villalba Macías *in litt.* 2006). In late January 2004 three young were noted there and in January 2005 two. Several weeks later, all had left the site. During spring 2005 they were recorded again in the same area, but did not use the nest, which had been partially

destroyed by strong winds (J. Villalba Macías *in litt.* 2006). The only Uruguayan specimens are an immature taken at San Diego, near the Yaguarón, dpto. Cerro Largo, in April 1960 (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), and another from San Gregorio, dpto. Artigas, in December 1980 (Huertas 1985). Also known from scattered sites in the north and east (Anon. 1998, Arballo & Cravino 1999), its range can now be extended to western Uruguay (first records for dpto. Rio Negro) and we present the first evidence of breeding. Suspected to be resident in Uruguay (Arballo & Cravino 1999), with records in December–April and once in winter (July 1995 in Salto), our records support the notion that at least some are sedentary. Considered rare in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994) and in Entre Ríos, Argentina (de la Peña 1997).

SWAINSON'S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni*

Recorded at many sites between January 1995 and December 2006 (by ABA unless otherwise stated): dpto. Canelones (Carrasco International Airport); dpto. Colonia (near Conchillas; S. Alvarez *in litt.* 2006); dpto. Cerro Largo (c.10 km west of Paso Centurión); dpto. Durazno (5 km north of Sarandí del Yí and the environs of Cuchilla de los Manantiales); dpto. Flores (Route 3 km 227–230, Cuchilla Marincho); dpto. Maldonado (Sierra de Caracoles; ABA, and around San Carlos, Cerro de Eguzquiza and environs of Cuchilla de Maldonado; T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006, 2007); dpto. Paysandú (around Tres Árboles, establecimiento Santo Domingo, and Route 3, km 465); dpto. Río Negro (Route 3 km 314; T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); dpto. Rocha (Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos; J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006, and isla del Padre, río Cebollatí; C. Calimares *in litt.* 1999); dpto. Salto (5 km south-east of San Antonio, 5 km west of Boquerón de Cañas; ABA, and around Salto; T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); dpto. San José (Playa Penino); and dpto. Treinta y Tres (Route 8 km 260). Observations fall between 4 November and 27 February, with most (19) in December. Although many records involved singles (27 observations), several were of groups of 10–50. The largest flocks were in December 2000 (>100) at arroyo del Sarandí, establecimiento Santo Domingo, dpto. Paysandú, and on 19 (>100) and 23 December 2005 (>150) in an area of rolling grassland and woodland along Route 3, at Cuchilla Marincho, c.15 km south of Andresito, dpto. Flores. Prior to the 1980s there were only three reports in Uruguay (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), but c.20 observations have been published since 1987 (Arballo & Cravino 1999, Gambarotta *et al.* 1999, Anon. 2000). We present the first records for dptos. Treinta y Tres, Flores and Paysandú, it being a regular visitor to sites in the latter two, and the largest flocks yet reported for Uruguay, suggesting that substantial numbers use the country's open habitats in winter.

YELLOW-BREASTED CRAKE *Porzana flaviventer flaviventer*

At least two flushed in a shallow marsh surrounded by tall grassland, on 5 November 2000, at establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, western dpto. Pasaysandú (ABA). Just three previous records in Uruguay: one found dead at the río Cebollatí, near the town of Cebollatí, dpto. Rocha, May 1960 (Vaz-Ferreira & Gerzenstein 1961), whilst Arballo & Cravino (1999) referred to observations near Juan Lacaze, dpto. Colonia (undated), and Punta del Este, dpto. Maldonado (November 1994). Ours is the first record in northern Uruguay. No records in Entre Ríos, Argentina (de la Peña 1997), and just two in Rio Grande do Sul (Maurício & Dias 2000).

BLACKISH OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ater*

On 6 July 2005 one photographed at Cabo Polonio, dpto. Rocha (ABA), with a single in the same place on 19 September 2004, 23 August 2005, 8, 22, 30 January and 30 March 2006 (J.

C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006, C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006), all perhaps the same bird. American Oystercatcher *H. palliatus* was also present. *H. ater* was seen at Aguas Dulces, dpto. Rocha, in April 1995 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006), and also by C. Calimares (*in litt.* 2006) on 22 and 30 January and 30 March 2006. Previous records involve one, in February 1981, between Punta del Marco and Punta de Castillo, dpto. Rocha (Osorio 1981), and perhaps the same in August 1981 at arroyo Valizas (Escalante 1983), as these sites are within 2 km. Roballo Vargas & Amaro Padilla (2000) reported observations of singles at Punta del Este, dpto. Maldonado, in September 1999 and June 2000. Smith (1927) reported breeding on islands off La Coronilla, dpto. Rocha, which was questioned by Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962), whilst Gore & Gepp (1978) considered it a rare winter visitor. Apparently an occasional visitor which may remain relatively long periods. Occasional in coastal prov. Buenos Aires, Argentina (Narosky & Di Giacomo 1993).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Singles at Laguna de Rocha, on 30 May 1997 (ABA), Chuy, 16 December 1990 (photographed by E. Gómez-Haedo; S. Claramunt *in litt.* 2006), Aguas Dulces, 19 October 1996 (C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006), Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, 11 April 2000 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006), all dpto. Rocha; arroyo Maldonado, c.5 km south of San Carlos, dpto. Maldonado, 22 October 1993 (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); Playa Carrasco, dpto. Montevideo, 3 April 2003 (F. García Olaso *in litt.* 2007); Solymar, dpto. Canelones, 11 October 2004 (C. Guadalupe pers. comm. 2004); and Punta Carretas, dpto. Montevideo, 4 November 2004 (D. Caballero *in litt.* 2007). An observation reported by M. Huertas lacks details (Huertas 1988). Not included by Gore & Gepp (1978) or Cuello (1985), the only published records were provided by Morrison & Ross (1989), who reported singles between Chuy and Punta del Barco and at Laguna de Rocha. Rare on Argentine coasts (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003) but small numbers in November–April in Rio Grande do Sul (Lara Resende & Leeuwenberg 1987).

LEAST SEEDSNIPE *Thinocorus rumicivorus rumicivorus*

On 17 July 1998, a male and two females were at Laguna de Rocha, dpto. Rocha (ABA). On 24 April 2004, one at Sierra de Caracoles, 20 km north of San Carlos, dpto. Maldonado (W. Cabrera *in litt.* 2006). Few records for Uruguay, including old ones for dptos. Canelones, Colonia and San José (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962). Also observed in several consecutive years, from 1971, in dpto. Maldonado (Gore & Gepp 1978). A rare winter visitor (Gore & Gepp 1978, Azpiroz 2001).

PALE-VENTED PIGEON *Columba cayennensis sylvestris*

On 8 December 2006 three in the environs of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA, JLM), of which one was closely observed, permitting all of the salient features to be seen. Two other records of singles: one collected by E. Gómez-Haedo on 6 August 1999 near Cololó, dpto. Soriano (MNHN 5839), the other seen on 19 May 2000 at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). One previous published report: a bird taken at Laguna del Diario, dpto. Maldonado, in February 1958 (Vaz-Ferreira & Gerzenstein 1961).

GREY-FRONTED DOVE *Leptotila rufaxilla reichenbachii*

Found on 15–17 October (JLM) and 8–10 December 2006 (ABA, JLM), in gallery forest along the Yaguarón, near Paso Paiva and Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo. Several were heard daily and tape-recorded. Apparently fairly common but significantly outnumbered by

White-tipped Dove *L. verreauxi*. Claramunt & Cuello (2004) included dpto. Cerro Largo within the species' range based on specimens in MNHN (S. Claramunt *in litt.* 2006). Very few previous detailed reports: singles taken in dpto. Paysandú (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), at Tambores, dpto. Tacuarembó, in April 1958, and arroyo La Invernada, dpto. Artigas, in February 1954 (Vaz-Ferreira & Gerzenstein 1962), with reports from the río Arapey, dpto. Salto, in June 1988, at Paso Almería, río Cebollatí, dpto. Lavalleja, in October 1988, and at the mouth of the río Cebollatí, dpto. Rocha, in June 1989 (Arballo 1990). As *L. rufaxilla* and the far commoner and more widespread *L. verreauxi* can be difficult to separate in the field (see Belton 1984), future reports should specify how *L. rufaxilla* is identified and, where possible, be accompanied by evidence (e.g. recordings). Our observations are the first for 15 years. Common resident in Rio Grande do Sul, but recorded only twice within 70–100 km of the Uruguayan border (Belton 1984, Maurício & Dias 2001).

BURROWING PARROT *Cyanoliseus patagonus patagonus*

On 29 July 1989, one was by a minor road just south of Libertad, dpto. San José (ABA). On 22 October 1990, two were at Punta Artilleros, dpto. Colonia (G. Geymonat *in litt.* 1994). On 22 January 1996, two were photographed at Punta Colorada, dpto. Maldonado (J. Abente *in litt.* 2006). On 14–15 April 2000, two were observed at Punta Gorda and Playa Carrasco respectively, dpto. Montevideo (S. Alvarez *in litt.* 2006), and a pair on 25–26 February 2005 in downtown Montevideo (J. C. Mazzulla *in litt.* 2006). The few records for Uruguay were summarised by Bucher & Rodríguez (1986), who considered it probably a rare and infrequent winter visitor to the south-west. Former winter visitor to north-east prov. Buenos Aires. Populations were thought to have declined in recent decades, but may be increasing again (Narosky & Di Giacomo 1993). Some observations reported here may have involved escapees, especially those in Montevideo city and those seen in summer.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus americanus*

One in Montevideo's Botanical Garden, dpto. Montevideo, on 28 April 2002 (C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006); at least one on 10–22 February 2004 at arroyo Frasquito, Pando, dpto. Canelones (E. Méndez *in litt.* 2006); and a single on 3 December 2006 at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). Previously known from three specimens, taken in February 1921 near the río Negro, dpto. Río Negro (Wetmore 1926), in February 1960 at San Gregorio, near the río Uruguay, dpto. Artigas (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), and at arroyo de las Limetas, Martín Chico, c.7 km west of Conchillas, dpto. Colonia, on 25 March 1967 (J. Abente *in litt.* 1994), with a sight record in January 1975 at Balneario Solís, dpto. Maldonado (Gore & Gepp 1978). Scarce summer visitor to Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994) and northern Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003).

ASH-COLOURED CUCKOO *Coccyzus cinereus*

On 31 December 2004, one at a nest with a feathered chick, at Parque Rodó, dpto. Montevideo (ABA). The nest was at c.8 m in an exotic tree and was initially located on 7 December when two birds were nest building (G. Betarte *in litt.* 2006). They were filmed by J. C. Mazzulla and tape-recorded (JLM); also found there in 1994 (G. Geymonat *in litt.* 2006). Singles at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha on 11 October 1992, 11 November 1996, 18 February 2003, 3 November 2004 and 30 October 2006, with a pair seen repeatedly in January–February 2005 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). Singles also recorded elsewhere in dpto. Rocha: at Aguas Dulces on 15 December 1997, at Colonia Vacacional Don Bosco, Laguna Negra, on 27 October 2004 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006), around Cerro Picudo, San Miguel National Park, on 15 November 2003 (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006), and at isla

del Padre, in the río Cebollatí, on 4 December 1999 (C. Calimares *in litt.* 1999). Few published records for Uruguay (Azpiroz 2001). Sanborn (1929) found it at estancia Concordia, on the río Uruguay, south-west of Dolores, dpto. Soriano, in January 1927. Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962) reported three specimens taken in dptos. San José (January 1959), Treinta y Tres (December 1959) and Colonia (January 1960), and one was seen in Montevideo city in December 1966 (Gore & Gepp 1978). Given the numerous recent observations, it is probably more common than thought and is certainly a summer resident, as in Rio Grande do Sul (Maurício & Dias 2000).

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga ani*

Observed in dpto. Paysandú as follows: 9 January and 25 March 1997 and 13 September 2005, at establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho (ABA); 19 December 1998, at Cañada Jacinta, 10 km south of Salto (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); with several records for dpto. Rocha: 25 November 1998, Laguna de Rocha (ABA); 30 November 1998 (photographed), Route 10 just north of Valizas (ABA); 30 November 2006 (photographed), Route 9, km 303, around Fortaleza de Santa Teresa (ABA); 18 November 2001, Laguna de Rocha (S. Alvarez *in litt.* 2006); and 14 May 2005, Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). A group of four seen repeatedly from March 1994 by the río Olimar, Treinta y Tres city (C. Prigioni *in litt.* 1999); five, on 10 April 2006, near the río Uruguay, north of Bella Unión, dpto. Artigas (JLM); one, on 27 November 2006, at Rincón de Zamora, just north of Paso Ramírez, dpto. Tacuarembó (ABA); singles observed repeatedly on 6 December 2002–4 January 2003 and 5 December 2003, at establecimiento La Goyavière, 3 km south-east of San Carlos, dpto. Maldonado (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); and one, on 15 April 2006, at Arenitas Blancas, Salto city, dpto. Salto (J. C. Mazzulla *in litt.* 2006). The only previous reports for Uruguay were from dptos. Soriano and Rivera pre-1960 (see Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962).

GREATER ANI *Crotophaga major*

Recorded daily (1–3) on 16–18 November 1994, with two on 5 November 1996, in gallery forest at estancia Cuaró, c.20 km north of Diego Lamas, dpto. Artigas (ABA); at least one in mid November (JLM) and on 20 December 2005 (ABA) in gallery forest near the río Arapey Chico, estancia Malacara, c.25 km north-west of Lavalleja, dpto. Salto, where also recorded in mid-April 1995 (L. Alfaro pers. comm.). On 11 April 2006 one close to the río Uruguay, c.8 km north of Bella Unión, dpto. Artigas (JLM). A juvenile was photographed at establecimiento La Goyavière, 3 km south-east of San Carlos, dpto. Maldonado, on 1 June 1995 (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006). Known from three other localities in dpto. Artigas (see Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962), but rare in Uruguay (Gore & Gepp 1978, Azpiroz 2001), with almost all records in November–April (Cuello & Zorilla de San Martín 1960), and probably a summer resident. The juvenile in Maldonado was perhaps on post-breeding dispersal and had wandered outside its normal range. Other extralimital observations are from prov. Buenos Aires, La Pampa and La Rioja, Argentina (Canevari *et al.* 1991). Scarce summer resident in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994), where probably declining (Bencke *et al.* 2003). Also migratory in at least parts of northern Argentina (Canevari *et al.* 1991).

COMMON POTOO *Nyctibius griseus griseus*

On 16 November 2004 it was recorded at Paso de las Piedras, río Arapey Grande, c.25 km north of Colonia Itapebí, dpto. Salto (JLM). At 22.00 h one responded to playback and was subsequently seen and tape-recorded. Another was heard simultaneously further away. An individual which first responded to playback was later seen and recorded on 21 March 2005,

at the confluence of arroyo Cambará and the río Arapey Grande, c.40 km west of Masoller, dpto. Salto (JLM). Another observed on 14 November 2005 at estancia Malacara, dpto. Salto, was initially heard, then moved closer in response to playback. It was filmed by D. Presa and its voice recorded (JLM). The species was again observed there on 21–22 December 2005 (ABA). It was also recorded on 26 February (JLM), 15–16 October (JLM) and 8–10 December 2006 (both authors), at Paso Paiva, on the río Yaguarón, usually in response to playback. Previously known from dptos. Artigas, Salto and Cerro Largo (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962, Belton 1994). Probably a widespread and relatively common summer resident in gallery forests of northern Uruguay. Also fairly common in Rio Grande do Sul, where apparently also a summer resident (Belton 1994), and a rare resident in Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997).

PAURAUQUE *Nyctidromus albicollis derbyanus*

On 23 February 1999, one at the río Yaguarón, 1.5 km south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA), and next day a male (MNHN 5920) was taken by C. Prigioni nearby. On 17 June 2006 an apparent *N. albicollis* was observed at dusk at Rincón de Paiva, south of Paso Centurión (ABA, JLM). On 15 October 2006 at Paso Paiva, two were seen and tape-recorded along the Yaguarón (JLM), and next evening one was heard in the same area, and it was heard and seen again on 8–10 December 2006 (ABA, JLM). The two sites lie 3 km apart. Though included in general lists of the birds of Uruguay, based on the 1999 observations (Azpiroz 2001, Claramunt & Cuello 2004), details had not previously been published. *N. a. derbyanus* ranges across central and south Brazil, north and east Bolivia, Paraguay and north-east Argentina, where apparently sedentary (Cleere & Nurney 1998). Infrequent in Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003), with no specific records for Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997), and scarce in Rio Grande do Sul, with no records near the Uruguayan border (Belton 1994).

SWIFT *Streptoprocne* sp.

On 11 February 1995, 4–5 large swifts with the white collar diagnostic of *Streptoprocne* were seen over Treinta y Tres city (C. Prigioni *in litt.* 1999). Belton (1994) considered White-collared *S. zonoris* and Biscutate Swifts *S. biscutata* impossible to distinguish in the field under most conditions. As their range and status in southernmost Brazil are apparently similar, and they form mixed flocks (Belton 1994), those seen in Treinta y Tres must remain unidentified. In Uruguay, a specimen of *S. zonoris* was collected in 1934 in the environs of Montevideo city (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962).

WHITE-FRONTED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes cactorum*

Recorded at establecimiento Los Cedros, c.20 km north-west of Young, dpto. Río Negro on 12 April 2002 (two, of which one was tape-recorded and filmed: JLM, D. Presa); 12–13 October 2002 (three, and two in old-growth Espinal woodland 2 km from Los Cedros: JLM); 28 June 2003 (at least two: ABA); 24 October 2003 (one: D. Presa). Also found repeatedly c.120 km to the north in dpto. Salto: on 1 October 2004 two (one photographed) at the Estación Regional of the Facultad de Agronomía, 5 km south-east of San Antonio; the pair was recorded frequently in October–November 2004, roosting in a hole c.4 m high in a large ornamental tree, and again in late September–October 2005 (ABA). Additionally, one (MNHN 4768) was taken by D. Mailhos at Paso de las Cadenas, arroyo Negro, dpto. Río Negro, in September 1992. It was seen entering a tree roost with five others (data on specimen label). On 21–22 October 1994, also observed at arroyo Cololó, estancia La Sirena, 35 km north-east of Mercedes, dpto. Soriano. Tremoleras (1920) included it for Uruguay but provided no specifics. By the 1960s there were still no specimens or observations (Cuello &

Gerzenstein 1962), and Gore & Gepp (1978) omitted the species. Scarce resident in Entre Ríos, with records in the west, north and south-east (de la Peña 1997).

YELLOW-BROWED WOODPECKER *Piculus aurulentus*

A male in gallery forest by the río Yaguarón near Paso Paiva, dpto. Cerro Largo, on 16 October 2006 (JLM, J. Abente, S. Álvarez), was tape-recorded in response to playback. Tremoleras (1920) mentioned *P. aurulentus* for dptos. Paysandú and Salto, but Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962) suggested a misidentification of *Veniliornis spilogaster*. The first confirmed record for Uruguay and the southernmost ever. Uncommon resident in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, mostly known from the north-east, with scattered records elsewhere (Belton 1994, Maurício & Dias 1998), the closest site (Cerro das Almas) being c.100 km north-east of Paso Paiva (Maurício & Dias 2001).

CREAM-BACKED WOODPECKER *Campephilus leucopogon*

On 23 March 1986 a pair was beside the río Arapey Chico at estancia Luis María (=Malacara), dpto. Salto, with a pair also there on 30 March 1988 (ABA), but not observed in April 1995 and November–December 2005. On 15 April 1992 a male observed and tape-recorded near the río Arapey at Paso de las Piedras, c.30 km north of Colonia Itapebí, dpto. Salto (ABA), and a female collected by J. Cabrera (MNHN 4767). On 28 March 1994 a male was foraging in the same area, but the species was not seen there in November 2005. Also recorded at Termas de Guaviyú, dpto. Paysandú and Termas del Arapey, dpto. Salto. At the former a pair was seen on 15 October 1993 (E. Méndez *in litt.* 2006). At the latter it was recorded repeatedly: 28 March 1994, a male along the río Arapey Grande; 23–24 October 1997, three (probably a pair and juvenile) in a plantation (mainly *Eucalyptus* and *Grevillea* spp.); 2 September 2002, one in the camping area; and 28 August–2 September 2006, female photographed (G. Acosta y Lara *in litt.* 2006). Two were filmed on 14 July 2006 at Parque del Lago, north of Salto city, dpto. Salto (E. Muñoz pers. comm.). Finally, a pair was photographed at Pinguíño, c.10 km north of Nuevo Berlín, dpto. Río Negro, on 10 February 2007 (N. Zaldúa *in litt.* 2007). Relatively few records for Uruguay. One, from southern dpto. Rio Negro, involved a specimen, shown to Aplin (1894), and taken at estancia Santa Florencia, with observations from dptos. Artigas (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962) and Salto (Arballo 1990). Our observations include the first for Paysandú.

SCALLOPED WOODCREEPER *Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*

On 24 February 1999 and 8 December 2006 singles were seen in gallery forest beside the río Yaguarón, 1 km south of Paso Centurión (ABA). On 8–9 April 1999, one was heard at arroyo Sarandí, Sierra de Ríos, with another seen and tape-recorded there next day (ABA). On 24–29 January 2000, at Paso de Melo, on the Yaguarón, several were seen or heard (ABA) and two were collected (MNHN 5913–14). On 25–28 February 2006 it was heard or seen daily at Paso Paiva and nearby (JLM). Finally, one was observed on 8 December 2006 1 km south of Paso Centurión (both authors). All these records lie within less than 30 km, in dpto. Cerro Largo, where the species appears locally fairly common, albeit less so than Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*. During two trips in June and August 2006 to Paso Paiva and Paso Centurión, it was not recorded. Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *L. angustirostris*, which is fairly common in western Uruguay (Azpiroz 2001), does not inhabit this region. Though *L. falcinellus* was mentioned for Uruguay by Arballo & Cravino (1999), Azpiroz (2001) and Claramunt & Cuello (2004), no details were published. A common resident in Rio Grande do Sul, mainly in the north and east (Belton 1994), including the Serra do Sudeste, near the Uruguay border (Maurício & Dias 2001).

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER *Sittasomus griseicapillus sylviellus*

Found at several sites in dpto. Cerro Largo. On 24 February 1999, near Paso Centurión, two were seen and their contact calls recorded, with two heard in the same area next day (ABA). On 26 February one was taken by C. Prigioni (MNHN 5923) and three tape-recorded in the vicinity (ABA). On 7–9 April 1999, several were recorded along arroyo Sarandí, in the Sierra de Ríos (ABA). Several were observed daily on 24–29 January 2000, at Paso de Melo, río Yaguarón (ABA). On 25–28 February 2006 several were heard or seen at Paso Paiva and environs (JLM). At this site, and near Paso Centurión, several seen or heard on 17–19 June (both authors), 26 August 2006 (JLM), 15–17 October (JLM) and 8–10 December 2006 (both authors). The only previous record for Uruguay was a specimen taken on 7 October 1997 at Paso Centurión (Claramunt 1998). The new data reveal that it inhabits the same general area as *L. falcinellus* in Uruguay, and is a fairly common resident. A common resident over much of Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994), including the Serra do Sudeste, near the Uruguayan border (Maurício & Dias 2001).

PALE-BREASTED SPINETAIL *Synallaxis albescens australis*

One heard, seen (JLM) and filmed (by D. Presa), on 13 October 2002, near establecimiento Los Cedros, c.20 km north-west of Young, dpto. Río Negro. Old-growth patches of Espinal woodland characterised the area (subsequently cleared). Another was heard and seen, on 15 November 2005, at estancia Malacara, río Arapey Chico, dpto. Salto (JLM), at the transition from grassland to open woodland. Previously known from only two localities in Uruguay: establecimiento El Espinillar, dpto. Salto, and Cuevas de San Antonio, just north of Salto city, dpto. Salto (Claramunt & Mazzulla 2002). At the latter site it was also recorded on 29 September 2002 and 27 December 2003 (J. C. Mazzulla *in litt.* 2006). The species was also found in 2002 and 2004 at Corralitos, just south of Salto (J. C. Mazzulla unpubl.), and on 3 January 2003 at Salto Grande dam, north of Salto (J. C. Mazzulla *in litt.* 2006). Our observations extend the known range in the country 150 km south and 75 km east. We follow Claramunt & Mazzulla (2002) in assigning our observations to *S. a. australis*. Scarce resident in Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997) and rare in Rio Grande do Sul (Bencke *et al.* 2003).

STRAIGHT-BILLED REEDHAUNTER *Limnocittes rectirostris*

Recorded by ABA (unless otherwise stated) as follows: Playa Penino, dpto. San José (October–November 1988); Laguna José Ignacio (14 May, 3 June, 2 July 1994), and Laguna del Diario (October 1994), dpto. Maldonado; Sierra de Chafalote (December 1988–May 2001), Laguna de Castillos, Route 9, km 245 (December 2000), Bañado de los Indios, Route 14, km 487–488 (regular 1997–2001), Route 9, km 216 (8 October 1998), estero de Pelotas, near Laguna Merín (December 1998), the río Cebollatí, near Laguna Merín (9 December 1999), Bañado Tres Bocas, Route 15, km 148 (February and April 1996), c.8 km south-west of Cebollatí, dpto. Rocha (April 2005); Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres (June 2001); Paso Centurión (February 1999), environs of Cerro Guazunambí (June 2001), and Paso Paiva, dpto. Cerro Largo (February, June, August 2006; JLM); and Laguna del Cisne, dpto. Canelones (January 2006). Most observations involved pairs or singles, but several were seen in southern and eastern dpto. Rocha. Elsewhere in dpto. Maldonado, the species was recorded repeatedly in patches of *Eryngium* sp. at Cuchilla de Maldonado, c.5 km west of Laguna José Ignacio, in August 1999–November 2006 (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); at marshes along the arroyo Maldonado, in August 2003–February 2005 (T. Rabau *in litt.* 2006); and, on 22 September 2006, two (one of them nest building) were at Gruta de Salamanca, c.20 km north-east of Aiguá (G. Cortés *in litt.* 2006). Considered uncommon in *Eryngium pandanifolium* and marshy vegetation in the south and east of the country (Azpiroz 2001), almost

all previous detailed records were pre-1978 (Escalante 1956, Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962, Gerzenstein & Achaval 1967, Gore & Gepp 1978), except those in January 1994 at estancia El Pororó, dpto. Lavalleja (Anon. 1998), in July 1999, at Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos (Gambarotta & Calimares 2000) and in December 1999, in Sierra de Chafalote (Azpiroz 2003). Darwin found *Limnoctites* and Curve-billed Reedhaunter *Limnornis curvirostris* at the same localities in dpto. Maldonado in 1833 (Gould 1839). Olson *et al.* (2005), however, suggested that they do not occur in proximity. In fact, *Limnoctites* and *Limnornis* do occur together at several sites throughout Uruguay. At Playa Penino, dpto. San José, both have been recorded (*Limnornis* on 2 July and *Limnoctites* on 9 October and 2 November 1988; ABA), and both were seen on 20 April 1996 at Bañado Tres Bocas (ABA). At Bañados de los Indios, which was regularly surveyed by ABA in 1997–2001, both species were recorded simultaneously on 22 April 1998, 1 July and 29 October 1999. At Laguna del Cisne, both were seen on 11 January 2006, and both have bred (a *Limnornis* nest was found in late December 1994 and a juvenile *Limnoctites* in mid-January 2006; ABA). Additionally, the two species have also been found at a marsh c.1 km east of Route 10, km 264.5, dpto. Rocha (C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006), and at Bañados de Arazatí, dpto. San José (Gore & Gepp 1978). Thus, the available data support Darwin's assertion.

RED-EYED THORNBIRD *Phacellodomus (erythrophthalmus) ferrugineigula*

On 19 June 2006 two (one photographed) were observed in a riparian thicket (<6 m height) including several *Erythrina cristagalli* (Leguminosae), surrounded by marshy vegetation, especially *Eryngium pandanifolium* (Apiaceae), at Paso Paiva, dpto. Cerro Largo (both authors). Also there, two were seen on 25–28 August (JLM), 15–16 October (JLM) and 8 December 2006 (both authors). They were filmed by J. C. Mazzulla and their voices recorded. Freckle-breasted Thornbird *P. striaticollis*, common throughout Uruguay, was also observed. Additional published records involve recent observations at four localities in dpto. Rivera (Cravino & Claramunt 2007). Usually considered a race of *P. erythrophthalmus*, but differences in morphology, habitat preferences and voice suggest it merits specific status (Ridgely & Tudor 1994, Remsen 2003). Those reported here match descriptions of *ferrugineigula*. Uncommon (and probably resident) in south and east Rio Grande do Sul, but not recorded <50 km from the Uruguayan border (Belton 1994); ours are the southernmost records.

GREATER THORNBIRD *Phacellodomus ruber*

On 10 April 2006 a pair was seen and tape-recorded in woodland near the río Uruguay, just north of Bella Unión, dpto. Artigas (JLM). Next day a single was at Parque Municipal Los Pinos, c.8 km north-west of Bella Unión, near the confluence of the ríos Cuareim and Uruguay. Recently found in dpto. Artigas (Claramunt & Cuello 2004). In Entre Ríos, a scarce resident, mainly in the west (de la Peña 1997) and in Rio Grande do Sul an uncommon resident near the río Uruguay (Belton 1994).

RUFOUS GNATEATER *Conopophaga lineata vulgaris*

On 27 August 2006 one was seen near Paso Paiva, dpto. Cerro Largo (JLM); it was filmed, and later mist-netted and photographed (J. Aldabe & J. C. Mazzulla). Another was found on 9 December 2006, c.1 km south of Paso Centurión, in the same area (both authors). On 7 October 1997 several were found in gallery forest along the río Yaguarón at Paso Centurión on the Brazil–Uruguay border, including two on the Uruguayan side (Maurício & Dias 2000). Paso Paiva is c.3 km south of Paso Centurión. Detected relatively recently at localities in neighbouring Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (Maurício & Dias 1998, 2001), the species is prob-

ably sedentary in the area, as at localities in southern Rio Grande do Sul where it appears uncommon or scarce (Maurício & Dias 1998).

OLIVACEOUS ELAENIA *Elaenia mesoleuca*

Tape-recorded as follows: on 7 January 1995, at estancia Don Horacio, Rincón de Vassoura, dpto. Tacuarembó (ABA); on 20–22 November 2003, at arroyo Gajo del Lunarejo, 15 km south-east of Masoller, dpto. Rivera (JLM); and on 8–9 December 2006, c.1 km south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA, JLM). Ours are the first documented records for Tacuarembó and Cerro Largo. Previously, a specimen taken in January 2000 at arroyo Gajo del Lunarejo, dpto. Rivera (Claramunt & Rocha 2001), whilst Claramunt & Cuello (2004) included dptos. Cerro Largo and Montevideo in the species' range. Our record from Paso Centurión is the southernmost ever.

HIGHLAND ELAENIA *Elaenia obscura sordida*

On 25–28 February (JLM), 18–19 June (both authors), 15–17 October (JLM) and 8–10 December 2006 (both authors), singles or pairs were observed around Paso Paiva and Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo. Birds were photographed (P. Rodríguez & L. Doño), filmed (D. Presa) and their voices recorded (JLM). Recently reported for Uruguay from Paso Centurión, and found repeatedly there in November 1997–April 1998 and October 1998–April 1999 (Rocha 2000). Because all these records were obtained in spring and summer, Rocha (2000) considered it probably a summer resident. Our late autumn records suggest year-round presence, and in Rio Grande do Sul it is considered an uncommon resident (Belton 1994).

CRESTED DORADITO *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*

One seen, on 2 November 1988, by a coastal lagoon at Playa Pascual, dpto. San José (ABA, G. Acosta y Lara), with another on 13 December 1998, at estero de Pelotas, dpto. Rocha, and a pair with two fledglings photographed there next day (ABA). At establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, dpto. Paysandú, singles on 3 November 2000 and 23 December 2005 (ABA). Two pairs seen on 14 November 2002 at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, where it was also recorded regularly in late spring to summer 2005–06 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). First reported for Uruguay by Huertas (1988), without details, and also seen at Bañados de India Muerta, dpto. Rocha, in 1997, at Playa Penino, in 1998, and at Laguna Merin, dpto. Cerro Largo, in 1997–99 (Rocha Sagrera 2000). Few records in (south-west and south-east) Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994) and rare in Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997).

PEARLY-VENTED TODY-TYRANT *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer margaritaceiventer*

On 11–12 April 2006 two were observed (one tape-recorded) in dpto. Artigas (JLM), at Parque Municipal Los Pinos, c.8 km north-west of Bella Unión, and just east of Bella Unión near the río Cuareim. Recorded in Uruguay recently (Lyons 1998), but no details published. A scarce resident in Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997) and, although not recorded in Rio Grande do Sul, it very probably occurs on the Brazilian side of the Cuareim.

OCHRE-FACED TODY-FLYCATCHER *Todirostrum plumbeiceps plumbeiceps*

On 23–24 February 1999, at least 12 were seen and/or heard (two tape-recorded) in gallery forest beside the Yaguarón c.1.5 km south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA). On 18 June 2006 two were found c.1 km south of Paso Centurión and on the same day and 19 June, singles were heard beside the río Yaguarón at Paso Paiva (both authors). In the same

area, birds were found at different sites in gallery forest and nearby forest patches on 15–17 October 2006 (JLM), but not in late August and early December 2006. The only previous detailed report for Uruguay was of two, taken on 6 October 1997, at Paso Centurión (Claramunt 1998). A common resident in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1984) and Maurício & Dias (2001) found it at Vila Basílio (c.70 km from the border with Uruguay), but did not report it for the Brazilian side of Paso Centurión.

CHOCOLATE-VENTED TYRANT *Neoxolmis rufiventris*

Observed repeatedly by ABA in dpto. Salto: 27 June 2003 (at least ten), 6.5 km east of Arerunguá; 22 July 2004 (18 and eight), 16 March 2005 (one) and 15 and 18 July 2005 (c.30–50), estancia El Recreo, just west of Cerros de Vera; 17 March 2005 (one) and 28 May 2005 (c.30), estancia El Tapado; 21 March 2005 (one), 28 and 29 May 2005 (two and a flock of 12), estancia Los Venados. These three estancias are within a relatively small area near Arerunguá and Cerros de Vera. Additionally, a flock was observed on 23 May 1988 at estancia Pastorini (Route 6, km 160), c.30 km west of Gallinal, dpto. Florida (A. Carriquiry *in litt.* 2001), and a single on 2 October 1991 at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha (J. C. Gambarotta *et al.* 1999). Most previous records of this winter visitor to Uruguay were pre-1975. Cuello & Gerzenstein (1962) mentioned specimens taken in April 1960 at Campo Militar, dpto. Canelones, and in March 1959 at arroyo Tala de Salsipuedes Chico, dpto. Tacuarembó. Three additional specimens, deposited in MNHN, were taken at the río San Salvador, Paso de las Tamberas, dpto. Soriano, in August 1967 and September and October 1970 (J. Cuello *in litt.* 2006). Gore & Gepp (1978) mentioned a flock of c.15 seen in April 1967 in dpto. Tacuarembó (no locality), one in May 1973 near Balneario Solís, dpto. Maldonado, and five in July 1974 between Young and Nuevo Berlín, dpto. Río Negro. The only other report in the last 30 years involved a flock of 24 near arroyo El Tapado in August 1997 (Venzal & Mazzulla 2000), in the same general area as our recent records, which confirm that it is a regular winter visitor to the Arerunguá/El Tapado region, the only such area in Uruguay. Our observations include the earliest autumn record (16 March 2005) and the largest flocks for the country.

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tyrannulus tyrannulus*

On 11 April 2006 one was seen and its calls recorded, in open forest near the río Uruguay, 6 km north of Bella Unión, dpto. Artigas (JLM). *M. tyrannulus* is morphologically very similar to Swainson's *M. swainsoni* and Short-crested Flycatchers *M. ferox*; the former a fairly common and widespread summer resident in Uruguay (Azpiroz 2001) and the latter hypothesised to occur (Joseph 2004). Voices of both differ from *M. tyrannulus*, being best described as whistles, but also including *huit* notes, rolls and rasps for *M. swainsoni*, and hiccups and rattles for *M. ferox* (Belton 1985, Joseph 2004). In the case of *M. swainsoni*'s *huit* notes, these are alternated with whistles and other complex phrases in its dawn song. Alternatively, *huit* notes are the most conspicuous element of *M. tyrannulus*' repertoire. The *huit* notes recorded at Bella Unión were not part of a dawn song and match those of *M. t. tyrannulus* on Boesman (2006). The first report for Uruguay, but two other records in nearby areas: one taken at Barra do Quarai in 1928 and another seen in May 2001 in forest near the río Cuareim; the only records for Rio Grande do Sul (Bencke *et al.* 2003). Fairly common in central and northern Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003). Subspecific assignment follows Belton (1985) and is also supported by vocal characters.

CHILEAN SWALLOW *Tachycineta meyeni*

At least two seen at close range at Barra de la Laguna de Rocha, dpto. Rocha, on 14 August 2000 (ABA). Unlike White-rumped Swallow *T. leucorrhoa*, *T. meyeni* lacks the white thin stripe on the forehead, present even in young *T. leucorrhoa* (Belton 1985). One was also seen at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha, on 16 June 2006, with several *T. leucorrhoa* (C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006), and 15 were observed there at close range on 13 August 2006 and a few days later (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006). The only detailed reports for Uruguay are those of Gore & Gepp (1978) for Balneario Solís, dpto. Maldonado (June 1970 and August 1974). Claramunt & Cuello (2004) included dpto. San José within its range based on specimens deposited at MNHN (S. Claramunt *in litt.* 2006). An uncommon winter visitor to Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994).

SOUTHERN MARTIN *Progne elegans*

A male near Punta Negra, dpto. Maldonado, on 31 December 2005 (ABA), where one was photographed feeding at least one feathered chick at a nest on a roof, on 13 January 2007 (ABA). Single males were observed in the outskirts of Pando on 11 December 1993 and at Bañados de Carrasco on 30 November 2000, both in dpto. Canelones (E. Méndez *in litt.* 2006). Observations in dpto. Montevideo in November and December 1959 and 1960 (Cuello & Gerzenstein 1962) were the only published records for the country. Tremoleras (1920) cited it for dptos. Montevideo, Canelones and San José, but without details. Aplin (1894) referred to observations in Trinidad, dpto. Flores, but these probably were of Grey-breasted Martin *P. chalybea*, based on the site and numbers reported; the latter is common throughout the country. The observations reported here are the first for 45 years and provide the first evidence of breeding.

OCHRE-BREASTED PIPIT *Anthus nattereri*

This globally threatened species was found at several sites in central and northern Uruguay (ABA). First recorded at estancia Los Venados, dpto. Salto, on 26 September (one) and 5 October 2004 (three, at two sites), October–November 2004 (several), 20–21 January 2005 (one, though more were probably present), 14 July 2005 (at least 15 performing display-flights), 2 October 2005 (several heard), and October–early December 2005 (many). Also recorded at nearby estancia El Recreo, just west of Cerros de Vera, on 19 October (two), 1 November (two) and 4 November 2004 (one), and October–early December 2005 (one). Not found at Los Venados and El Recreo in March and May 2005. In 2005 found just north-east of San Antonio, dpto. Salto, as follows: 20–22 September (two), 5 October (one singing near a nest), and in October several were observed at two sites *c.*2 km apart, but none in November. Found at two localities in dpto. Durazno in 2006: 21–22 December (2+) and 28 December (3+), *c.*10 km south of Picada de Oribe; 27 (one) and 28 December (two), around arroyo del Estado, *c.*15 north-east of La Paloma. *A. nattereri* occurs sympatrically with other *Anthus* at all these sites, but is easily distinguished vocally and non-vocal individuals (except juveniles) can be identified by the yellowish-ochre underparts and boldly streaked upperparts (Ridgely & Tudor 1989, Narosky & Yzurieta 2003; ABA pers. obs.). Several were photographed in all four areas and the voices of two were recorded, at estancia Los Venados and south of Picada de Oribe. Several nests at estancia Los Venados (October–November 2004–05) and near San Antonio (October 2005). The first records for Uruguay and a several hundred km southward range extension. Our data suggest that Uruguayan birds depart the nesting grounds for several months post-breeding. It is rare in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994) and very scarce in north-east Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003).

GRASS WREN *Cistothorus platensis polyglottus*

One singing on 24–25 January 2005 at estancia Cerros del Tesoro, Chapicuy, dpto. Paysandú (ABA), where singles were also recorded on 25 March and 19 September 2005 (ABA). On 23 December 2005, an adult feeding a fledgling in a patch (>10 ha) of tall grass at establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, dpto. Paysandú (ABA). Also found c.10 km south of Picada de Oribe, dpto. Durazno on 21 (one) and 28 (two) December 2006 (ABA). One at Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos on 28 October 2004 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006) and one filmed in midsummer 2005, at establecimiento Don Siba, c.30 km north-east of Risso, Cuchilla del Perdido, dpto. Soriano (D. Presa pers. comm.). Chebataroff reported it from Sierra de Mahoma, dpto. San José, pre-1963, but thereafter considered his observation 'doubtful' as he was unable to relocate it on subsequent field trips to the area (Chebataroff 1963, Chebataroff & Gerzenstein 1965). Previously reported from Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, where seen on 8–9 July 1999 (Gambarotta & Calimares 2000, who refer to observations by J. Cravino in dpto. Tacuarembó, without details). The observation above represents the first breeding for Uruguay. Infrequent in Argentina (Narosky and Yzurieta 2003) and rare in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994).

CINNAMON WARBLING FINCH *Pospiza ornata*

One photographed (both authors), on 16 April 2005, at Carrasco Norte, just west of Carrasco International Airport, dpto. Canelones, showed no obvious signs of captivity. Included in recent lists of Uruguayan birds (Arballo & Cravino 1999, Azpiroz 2001), with a mapped record for dpto. Colonia in Azpiroz (2001) based on information provided by J. Cravino (*in litt.* 2001). Given that the species is illegally traded, the possibility of these being escapees must be considered. In Buenos Aires regular in the south and occasional in winter over the rest of the province (Narosky & Di Giacomo 1993).

LESSER GRASS FINCH *Emberizoides ypiranganus*

Observed by ABA as follows. The first record for Uruguay involved one photographed and tape-recorded, on 30 March 1999, in tall grass with shrubs near arroyo Tierras Coloradas, establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, dpto. Paysandú. Found at the same site on 22 December 2004. Also at Santo Domingo, in tall grass surrounding a marsh, one seen on 4 November 2000 and a pair at a nest on 15 September 2005. The nest had three eggs which hatched early next day. Photographs of adults, eggs and chicks were taken. On 23 December 2005 one was seen in the same area. Repeatedly recorded at estancia Cerros del Tesoro, near Chapicuy, also in dpto. Paysandú: on 25–26 November 2004 (several), 23 March 2005 (two), 18 September 2005 (two pairs), 2 November 2005 (one photographed), in patches of tall grassland between cropped fields and pastures. New records were also obtained in eastern Uruguay. Two (with C. Calimares) at Bañado de los Indios, dpto. Rocha, on 23 June 2001. On 16 and 19 June 2002 singles were at Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres (ABA). Also, one and two at Bañado de los Indios on 27 January and 13 February 2000, singles at Estación Biológica Potrerillo de Santa Teresa on 13 and 20 August 2002 (C. Calimares *in litt.* 2006), seen at Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres, on 25 October 2003 and 28 October 2004 (J. C. Gambarotta *in litt.* 2006), with one and two, on 28 December 2004 and 1 March 2005, at Corralitos, just south of Salto city, dpto. Salto (J. C. Mazzulla *in litt.* 2006). Readily separated from Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *E. herbicola* by voice and plumage (Tobias *et al.* 1997). Previous published records refer to a few at Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, on 5–9 July 1999 (Gambarotta & Calimares 2000). The new data indicate that it is relatively widespread in Uruguay. The lack of reports pre-1999 but numerous reports since suggest it

is a recent arrival. The only other site where it is confirmed to breed is Reserva El Bagual in eastern Formosa, Argentina, where active nests have been found from 7 October–25 March (Di Giacomo 2005). Our observations extend its known nesting period by c.1 month. Uncommon in Rio Grande do Sul (Belton 1994), but not reported for Entre Ríos (de la Peña 1997).

PURPLE-THROATED EUPHONIA *Euphonia chlorotica serrirostris*

A male at the río Uruguay, on the outskirts of Bella Unión, dpto. Artigas, on 10 April 2006 (JLM), was observed for 30 seconds before it flew. The bird's head and throat were dark overall, except the yellow forehead, and its calls (*bee...*, *bee....*, *bee*) matched those of a recording of *E. chlorotica* (Straneck 1990). Barattini (1945) added this species to Uruguay's avifauna but, like Arballo & Cravino (1999), provided no details. The only common *Euphonia* in Rio Grande do Sul, but not found near the Uruguayan border (Belton 1994, Maurício & Dias 2001). Its range in north-east Argentina includes southern Corrientes, adjacent to Bella Unión (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003).

CHESTNUT-BACKED TANAGER *Tangara preciosa*

On 29 March 1988 a pair was seen in forest beside the río Arapey Chico at estancia Luis María (=Malacara), dpto. Salto (ABA). Next day a male was in the same area. On 9 June 2005 a pair was at arroyo Guaviyú, establecimiento Santo Domingo, c.25 km north-east of Quebracho, dpto. Paysandú (ABA), with a male c.1 km distant, in gallery forest along arroyo Guaviyú, the following day. Fairly common in eastern Uruguay (Azpiroz 2001), but no specific reports from the west, and no detailed records from Entre Ríos, Argentina (de la Peña 1997).

AZURE JAY *Cyanocorax caeruleus*

On 24 February 1999 two were seen and tape-recorded near the río Yaguarón south of Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA). On 25 February two were heard along the Yaguarón, on the Brazilian border at Paso Paiva, 3 km south of the first site (ABA). Subsequently, singles were seen by both authors in June (south of Paso Centurión) and December 2006 (Paso Paiva). Reports of larger groups (Azpiroz 2001) were estimated from aural cues (i.e. unconfirmed), but the species was not detected in February, August and October 2006 (JLM), nor was it observed at Sierra de Ríos (April 1999) or Paso de Melo (January 2000), dpto. Cerro Largo (ABA). Flocks roam widely (Belton 1994), perhaps explaining the lack of further observations in this area. Resident in most of central and northern Rio Grande do Sul, but recorded just once close to the Yaguarón (Belton 1994).

Concluding remarks

We added three new species (*Piculus aurulentus*, *Myiarchus tyrannulus* and *Anthus nattereri*) to Uruguay's avifauna; provided evidence for year-round residency of *Crypturellus obsoletus*, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, *Conopophaga lineata*, *Elaenia obscura*, *Todirostrum plumbeiceps* and *Cyanocorax caeruleus*; and the southernmost records for *Nyctidromus albicollis*, *Piculus aurulentus*, *Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*, *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus*, *Elaenia mesoleuca* and *Anthus nattereri*. The Arerunguá and Centurión areas (Fig. 1) in northern and eastern Uruguay are particularly important for the conservation of two distinct bird communities. The former provides breeding habitat for the globally threatened *Anthus nattereri* and the regionally scarce *Neoxolmis rufiventris*, as well as for other uncommon or rare grassland specialists, e.g. Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis* and Pampas Meadowlark *Sturnella*

defilippii (Azpiroz 2005). Gallery forests within the latter region are inhabited by Atlantic Forest elements, some of them at their southernmost limits. Current efforts to expand the country's network of protected areas and to provide incentives for environmentally friendly land-use practices should view these areas as priorities, as their long-term conservation is highly desirable.

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